



# Principal Child and Family Social Worker Network

**National Event**

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Clare Poyner, Rob Tyrrell and Paul McGee



# A warm welcome from the co-chairs



# Housekeeping

- Cameras on...be present and engaged
- Mic's on mute unless speaking
- Please use the chat function voraciously to ask questions and share your thoughts / perspective
- Protected time – please don't multi task, you may miss something really pivotal and important...



# Outline for today

Welcome

Opening session – Clare, Paul and Rob

Brid Featherstone

Felicity Allen, Department for Education (DfE)

Break

Anti-racist practice – Brighton and Hove

Lunch

Eileen Munro

Break

Anna Glinski

Closing Remarks



# PSW NETWORK

Great to see so many  
PCFSW's today...  
however a lot of  
PCFSW's and  
authorities are not  
here and represented  
...we are curious as to  
what has got in the  
way of attending?



# Key purpose of today's network event

- Connecting PCFSW's across the land
- Share updates on the bigger picture...what we know so far about the social care reforms
- A moment to pause and reflect about the role of the PCFSW
- Practice confidence in important arenas of work - working with poverty, anti-racist practice, reflecting on practice frameworks and working with child sexual abuse - focusing on key themes and priorities identified by the PSW network.
- **We need your input on future areas of focus**

# Setting the scene – The Co Chair Team – what we said....

*“We will have a purposeful and collaborative focus on ‘co-chairing’ the PSW network – bringing different skills and experience towards shared priorities. There will be 3 co-chairs of the network with equal involvement and accountabilities”*

*“As a leadership team we are determined to continue to develop the opportunity and challenge provided by Sharon, Farrah and Darlington to promote anti-racist social work practice and to explicitly build this as white social workers / allies representing a diverse workforce”*

# Setting the scene - The Co Chair Team (cont.)

## An invitation

- In developing the network there will be an intentional and increasing focus on seeking support and input from all PSWs to develop key themes – active contribution and responses to the care review, equality, diversity and inclusion into practice and greater post Covid collaboration with children, families and supporting agencies.
- This will involve dynamic partnership working with the DFE, Chief Social Worker, Ofsted and the Adult PSW network and more active succession planning so that the PSWs have growing opportunities to contribute and develop the reach of the network.



# The first four months or so in the role....

- It has been some journey so far hugely supported by our colleagues at RIP who have been phenomenal
- We are hugely grateful to Dez for her words of encouragement / sage advice and challenge
- The network...the whole being so much greater than the sum of its parts. Your positive presence has really helped us in our work
- Priorities...poverty, every conversation keeps coming back to our challenges about maintaining our workforce, our explicit commitment and contribution to anti- racist practice and ally-ship, our mission to support families through the austerity, engaging with the Adult PSW Network and contributing in a meaningful and authoritative way to the care review and reform agenda

# The first four months or so in the role (cont.)

- We need our voice to be louder going into 2023. This amplification and our view is predicated by involving more of our PCFSW's in our work to identify and respond to our priorities
- We are very mindful that we want to be able to illustrate in a tangible way where we have made a contribution and difference
- As we go into 2023, we need more engagement with the regions and regional chairs and with even more participation in these forums, the national network events and structured meetings with the DfE / Chief Social Worker
- We need to further expand and build on our feedback loops, establish fast time feedback channels, and really encourage you all to participate in the PSW survey

Thoughts?





Right here,  
right now...

We need more  
coordinated involvement  
both individually and  
regionally



# Right here, right now...

- A dynamic ever changing and fluid working landscape
- Waiting for the consultation on the Care Review to launch (any time now)...we then need to galvanise and respond
- Workforce...inform the recruitment / retention debate
- Explicit about Anti-Racist Practice
- How do we reach out to PCFSW's who are less engaged
- Be more specific about where we are making a difference - how can we be more SMART about this
- Prioritise our priorities
- Mindful about succession planning

## Right here, right now...(cont.)

As a network, are there further opportunities to share our practice wisdom...shall we publish some thoughts about practice...if so who can be involved?



# Engaging the regions in 2023...



Representing the wide range and diverse views of the regions / regional consultations



Importance of regions being fully represented within the network and externally



Meetings with regional chairs (we may need to meet more regularly)...the ask for regions to share priorities, practice developments and perspectives



How do you think our model of distributed leadership is working in practice?

What do you think we can do differently to enhance our approach to distributed leadership ?



# Communication update

- Network meetings....
- Not just about how many people attend / about a representative attendance
- Regular forums with the Chief Social Worker/ DfE
- Research in Practice comms/ newsletters / teams channel
- PCFSW profiles

# Our three curious questions for today

1. How do we involve PCFSW's who are less visibly engaged in the network
2. The best way to demonstrate impact
3. Creating a clearer identity of the role of the PCFSW

**PSW**  
**NETWORK**





**PSW**  
**NETWORK**